

A photograph of the Iowa State Capitol building in Des Moines, Iowa, during winter. The building's two prominent domes are visible; the left dome is gold, and the right dome is green with gold accents. The building is partially obscured by bare, snow-laden trees in the foreground. The sky is overcast and grey.

State of Iowa

**Capitol Planning
Commission**

Annual Report

2005

**The Capitol Planning Commission is authorized under
Chapter 18A of the Code of Iowa.**

“It shall be the duty of the commission to advise upon the location of statues, fountains and monuments and the placing of any additional buildings on the capitol grounds, the type of architecture and the type of construction of any new buildings to be erected on the state capitol grounds as now encompassed or as subsequently enlarged, and repairs and restoration thereof, and it shall be the duty of the officers, commissions, and councils charged by law with the duty of determining such questions to call upon the commission for such advice.

“The commission shall, in cooperation with the director of the department of administrative services, develop and implement within the limits of its appropriation, a five-year modernization program for the capitol complex.

“The commission shall annually report to the general assembly its recommendations relating to its duties under this section. The report shall be submitted to the chief clerk of the house and the secretary of the senate during the month of January.”

—Code of Iowa, Chapter 18A.3

Date: April 25, 2006

To: Mr. Michael Marshall, Secretary of the Senate
Ms. Margaret Thomson, Chief Clerk of the House

I am pleased to submit the Capitol Planning Commission’s Annual Report to the Legislature. Enclosed please find twelve copies for the Senate and twelve copies for the House. Additional copies will be provided upon request. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Carlson, Secretary of the Capitol Planning Commission and Chief Operating Officer for the Department of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise.

Sincerely,

Karen Polking, Chair
Capitol Planning Commission

Vision

The vision set forth in the Capitol Complex Master Plan is for a Capitol Complex that exemplifies in setting and function the dignity it embodies in spirit and purpose.

Members of the Capitol Planning Commission

Karen Polking, Chair

Catherine Brown

Scott Brown

Ronald Feilmeyer

Elizabeth Isaacson

Carl Voss

Senator Jack Hatch

Senator Mary Lundby

Representative Mark Davitt

Representative Ralph Watts.

Paul Carlson, Secretary

Department of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise

The Capitol Planning Commission holds regular meetings four times per year. In January, the Commission meets jointly with the Governor's Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee. In April, July and October, the Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month. For further information, contact staff members Nancy Williams, 515-281-7259, or Dean Ibsen, 515-281-6051, of the Department of Administrative Services.

Senator John Putney served on the Commission through January 2005. Senator Mary Lundby, Carl Voss and Catherine Brown joined the Commission in April 2005. Two long-time Commissioners ended their turns in 2005. Jack Leaman, a landscape architect from Mason City, provided keen insight and tireless dedication to the cause of preserving and enhancing the historic character and original design concepts that make the Capitol Complex a major destination and attraction in Iowa. Martha Hayes, an educational consultant and historical researcher from Mt. Pleasant, brought her interest and commitment to preservation of the Capitol grounds and buildings to the Commission. Both Jack and Martha served as guiding hands in the development of the Capitol Complex Master Plan, adopted in 2000.

Building Renovation, Restoration and Placement

“ ... the placing of any additional buildings on the capitol grounds, the type of architecture and the type of construction of any new buildings to be erected on the state capitol grounds ... and repairs and restoration thereof ... ”

During 2005 the Commission reviewed progress on work underway on the Capitol Complex, including 1) renovation of the Records and Property Center, 2) improvements to the primary electrical distribution system serving the complex, and 3) improvements underway and projected for the Capitol.

In anticipation of major construction projects on the Capitol Complex, the members of the Commission toured the complex in July and revisited the master plan adopted in 2000. The plan has been amended to include consideration of a north loop road, with the exact configuration to be determined once construction moves closer to reality. The Commission reaffirmed its interest in working with Mercy Capitol to trade (but not sell) land with the long-term goal of eventual acquisition of the entire hospital site.

Wallace Building

The Commission has followed with interest the discussion around the disposition of the Wallace Building and has recommended demolition of the building and construction of a new office building. The Commission’s motion states: “[The Wallace Building] is not an efficient building, and from a business [standpoint] it makes more sense to demolish the building and construct a new building.” The Commission has not yet endorsed a specific site for a new building but intends to actively participate in the selection process.

“Roads to the Capitol”

The Commission supports the proposal to renovate the Carriage House at 1025 Des Moines Street for use as a Visitors’ Center, subject to further review of details that have not been developed, including plans for safely moving students between this site and the Capitol. This use is recommended in the Capitol Complex Master Plan



*Conceptual view of proposed Carriage House restoration, viewed from the north.
Copyright © July 2005 Jeffrey Morgan Architecture Studio*



*Conceptual view of proposed Carriage House gallery space, viewed from the north.
Copyright © July 2005 Jeffrey Morgan Architecture Studio*

Other Projects

The Commission has reviewed and offered comments on preliminary plans for renovation of parking lot #13 directly east of the Capitol. Members have also offered input on planning details specific to electrical distribution system equipment such as transformers and switchgear that must be placed around the Capitol Complex as part of the complex electrical distribution system upgrade project. As funding becomes available for renovation of the Grimes Building, the Commission has recommended consideration of an addition to the south to resolve the current asymmetrical relationship between Grimes and the Capitol. The Commission has been briefed on continuity of operations planning for the Capitol Complex and has encouraged the Department of Administrative Services to develop a manageable plan that includes considerations for security.

Modernization Program for the Complex

“ ... develop and implement ... a five-year modernization program for the capitol complex.”

The Commission discussed and endorsed the capital funding requests of the Department of Administrative Services specific to the Capitol Complex:

- Statewide Routine Maintenance - \$20,000,000
- Wallace Building Renovation or Replacement Planning - \$500,000
- Capitol Complex Relocation and Leasing Expenses - \$1,824,500
- Capitol Complex Electrical Distribution System Upgrade - \$7,202,600 (with appropriate phasing)
- Capitol Interior and Exterior Restoration Continuation - \$16,390,000 (with appropriate phasing)
- Repairs to Parking lots on the Capitol Complex - \$1,545,000
- Complex Pedestrian/Utility Tunnel Repairs - \$26,546,000 (with appropriate phasing)
- Planning for the Renovation of Grimes State Office Building - \$750,000
- Restoration of Capitol Complex Carriage House for “Roads to the Capitol” Visitor Center - \$4,950,000
- West Capitol Terrace Restoration/Removal of Parking Lots 7 and 8 - \$2,300,000
- Capitol Complex Property Acquisition Services - \$1,150,000
- Site Implementation Planning Services for Capitol Complex - \$100,000
- East Capitol Parking lot 13 Renovation - \$3,410,000
- Replace Court Avenue Bridge - \$5,665,000

Monuments

“ ... advise upon the location of statues, fountains and monuments ... ”

The Commission continued discussions on the proposed Iowa Workers’ Monument, originally proposed for a site directly north of the Capitol and between the Jessie Parker Building and the Iowa Workforce Development Building. After considering the monument in conjunction with the proposed Visitors’ Center, the Commission recommended a new location for the monument at the southwest corner of the Iowa Workforce Development Building. This proposal was accepted by the organizers of the project. The Commission has recommended: 1) an at-grade base rather than a raised base for ease of access to the monument and for ease of maintenance, 2) incorporation of granite pavers into the design to complement pavers used at the west side of the Capitol, and 3) continued cooperation between Department of Administrative Services staff and sponsors of the monument as further details of the project are developed.